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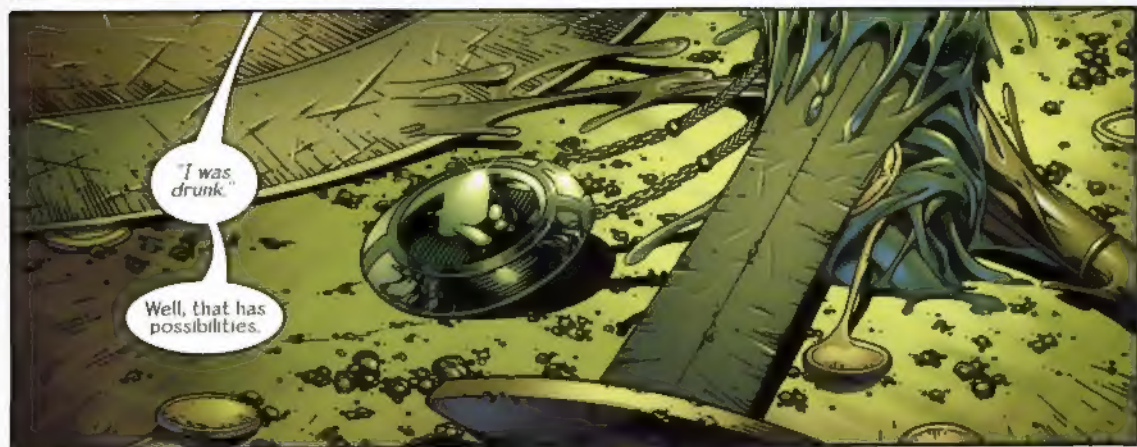
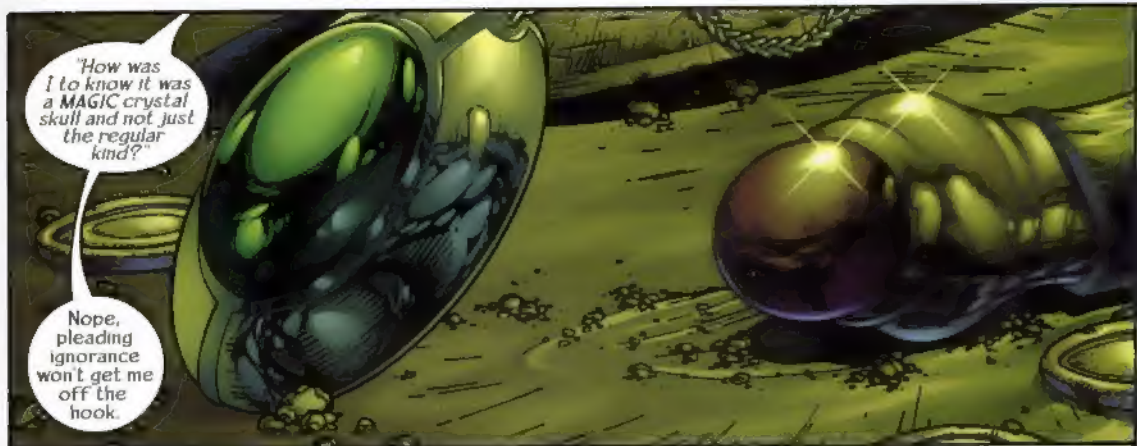
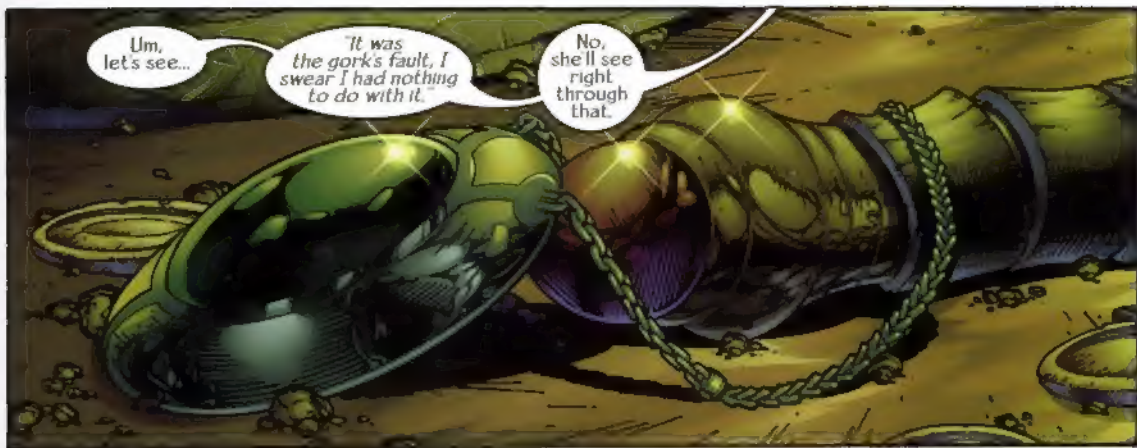
www.crossgen.com

MYSTIC



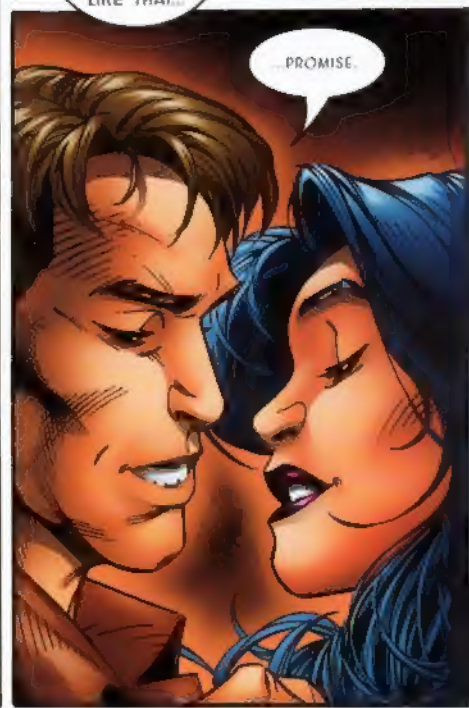
BRAND
Dell
A Crossley

Ron Marz
Brandon Peterson
John Dell
Andrew Crossley



...since
she's bound
to find out
pretty soon
anyway.







GEN...

I HOPE I'M NOT
INTERRUPTING...

...ANYTHING.



WHO?

US?

NO, OF
COURSE NOT.
I...YOU KNOW, I'M
JUST SURPRISED I
WASN'T EXPECTING
YOU, GEN.

I REALLY
ONLY CAME
TO SAY HI.

WHEN YOU
WEREN'T AT
YOUR APARTMENT
I THOUGHT THIS
WAS THE MOST
LIKELY PLACE.

FOUND
ME.



YOU REMEMBER
THIERRY, RIGHT?

THIERRY
CHEVALIER,
MY SISTER
GENEVIEVE.

HI.

NICE TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN.

SO...WHAT'S
GOING ON?

NOTHING.

I FOUND THIERRY
AT JAZZRAT'S AND WE
DECIDED TO COME HERE.
HE SHOWED ME SOME
SKETCHES...



...AND WE WERE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THIS STATUE CAME FROM.

YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, GEN?

LESS THAN YOU DO, PROBABLY. I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE IN THE SANCTUM A FEW TIMES, AND *NEVER* IN THIS PART OF IT.

IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY OF THE FORMER MASTERS.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, WHOEVER IT IS.

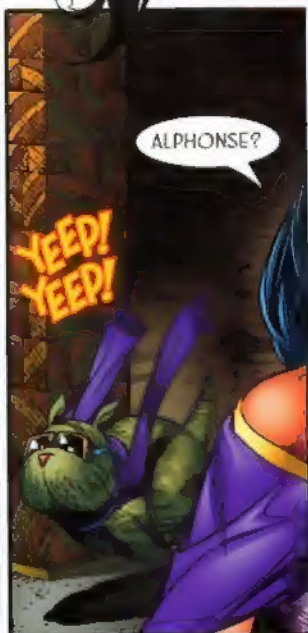
AN HOUR AGO I WAS SKETCHING IN A BAR. NOW I'M ADMIRING SCULPTURE ON THE MOON. I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD PINCH MYSELF.



BELIEVE ME, YOU GET USED TO IT FASTER THAN YOU THINK.

I'M ACTUALLY GETTING TO LIKE IT, THOUGH THE WHOLE DEFENDING OUR PLANET PART WAS MAYBE A *LITTLE* MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN I—

YEEP!



ALPHONSE?

YEEP! YEEP!



SKITTER!

I am *NOT* chasing him!



I am **BEING** chased!



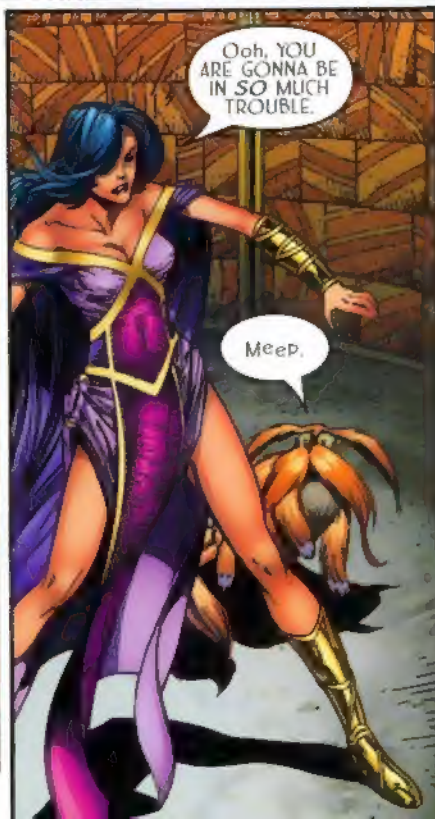
See,
I told
you so.



Uh...

...DOES
THIS USUALLY
HAPPEN?

NOPE.
NOT
USUALLY.



Ooh, YOU
ARE GONNA BE
IN SO MUCH
TROUBLE.

Meep.



SHOULDN'T
ONE OF YOU *DO*
SOMETHING?

LET ME.

ALL
YOURS



3434

I THINK YOU
STOPPED IT...
...WHATEVER
IT WAS.

LET'S
JUST MAKE
SURE.





I THINK
SOMEBODY
HAD BETTER GO
MEDIEVAL ON
THIS THING!

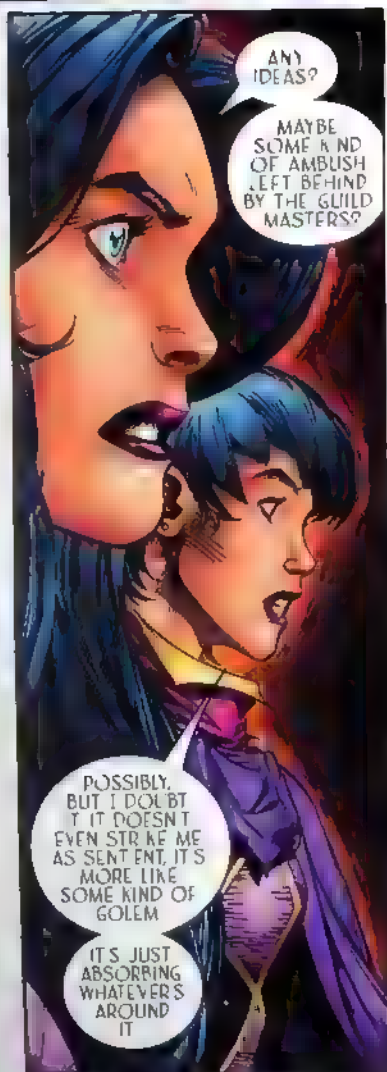
HAH!

CLANK

Huh?

FWOMP

AHH!





WE'LL
JUST TAKE IT
AWAY FROM THE
ARTIFACTS

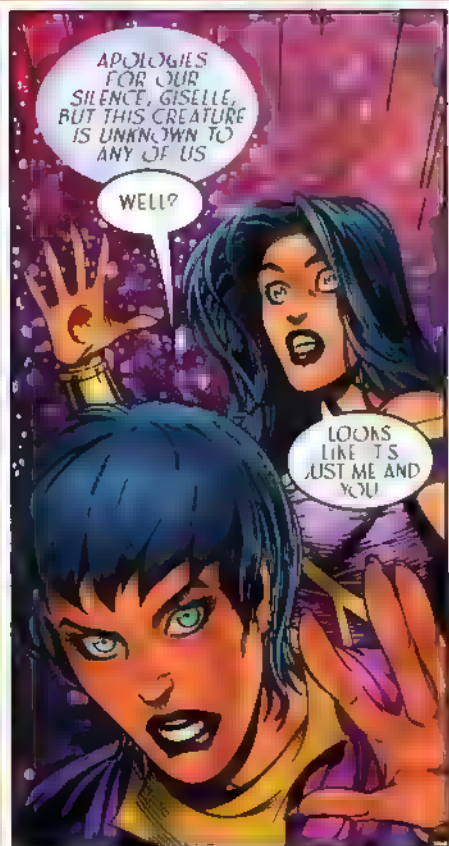
THAT
SHOULD AT
LEAST STOP
IT FROM
GROWING

WHAT
ABOUT THE
ETERNAL SPIRITS,
ELLE? ANY
WORD FROM
THEM?

HEY,
YOU GUYS
ARE PRETTY
QUIET



ANY
POINTERS?
HELLO?



APOLOGIES
FOR OUR
SILENCE, GISELLE,
BUT THIS CREATURE
IS UNKNOWN TO
ANY OF US

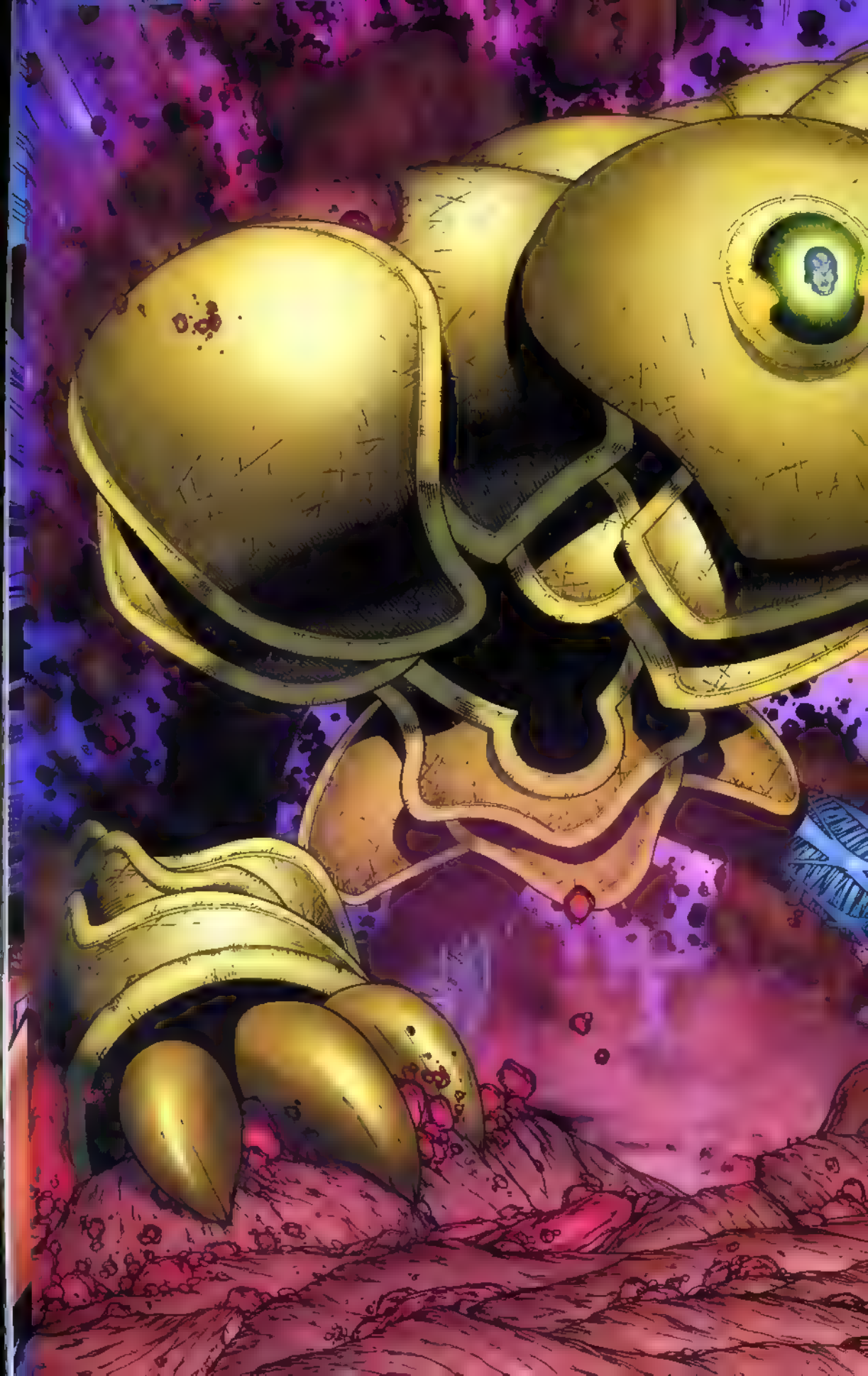
WELL?

LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
JUST ME AND
YOU



WE DON'T
DO ENOUGH
THINGS TOGETHER
ANYMORE
ANYWAY









YOU
KNOW, I'M
THINKING MAYBE
THERE WAS A SECRET
CACHE OF ARTIFACTS
UNDER THE
SURFACE

YEAH,
I'M

I'M
THINKING
THAT
TOO



GREAT

THIS
IS TURNING
INTO A BIGGER
DEBACLE THAN THE
PARTY FOR MY
SIXTEENTH
BIRTHDAY



MAGUS?

THE
SKULL ITSELF
IS WHAT
CONFRONTS
YOU

WAIT,
GISELE. THE
CREATURE IS
KNOWN TO
ONE OF
US

ONE WHO
WAS RESISTANT
TO DIVULGE HIS
KNOWLEDGE BUT WE
HAVE CONVINCED
HIM. IT WOULD
BE IN HIS BEST
INTEREST



WE
CREATED IT AS A
POOMSDAY DEVICE
FOR GISELE. IT
WAS ONCE HOUSED
IN THE VAULTS OF
THE DARK MAGI
CATHEDRAL

AN
ARTIFACT SO
DANGEROUS WE
NEVER DARED
UNLEASH IT FROM
ITS NULL
CASE

BECAUSE
IT LITERALLY
FEEDS ON
MAGIC



GEN.
STOP...

YOU CAN'T FIGHT IT WITH MAGIC!

EYAAH!!

THERE EXISTS NO KNOWN MEANS OF OPPOSING IT

UTILIZING MAGIC AGAINST IT ANY MAGIC WILL ONLY STRENGTHEN IT

NOW YOU TELL ME

WNF!

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, BUT I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH BESIDES MAGIC

YOU CAN'T FIGHT IT WITH MAGIC!

WTF?

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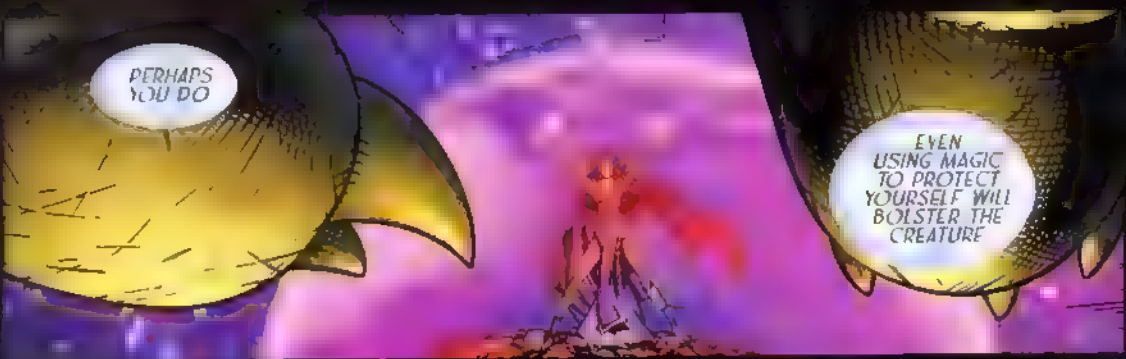
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NOW YOU TELL ME

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, BUT I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH BESIDES MAGIC

WNF!



PERHAPS
YOU DO

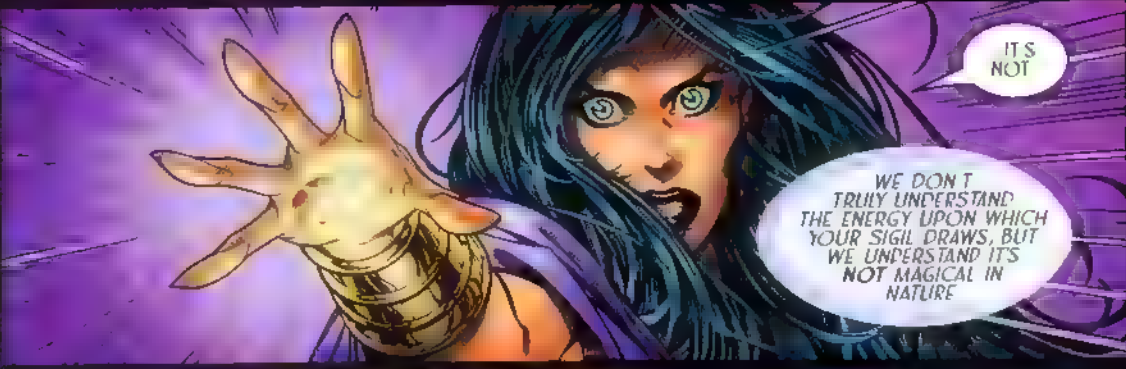
EVEN
USING MAGIC
TO PROTECT
YOURSELF WILL
BOLSTER THE
CREATURE



THE MARK
YOU BEAR ALLOWS
YOU TO DRAW UPON
ENERGY THAT YOU
CONVERT INTO
MAGIC

PERHAPS
IT'S NOT EVEN
A CONSCIOUS
PROCESS

BELIEVE
ME



IT'S
NOT

WE DON'T
TRULY UNDERSTAND
THE ENERGY UPON WHICH
YOUR SIGIL DRAWS, BUT
WE UNDERSTAND IT'S
NOT MAGICAL IN
NATURE



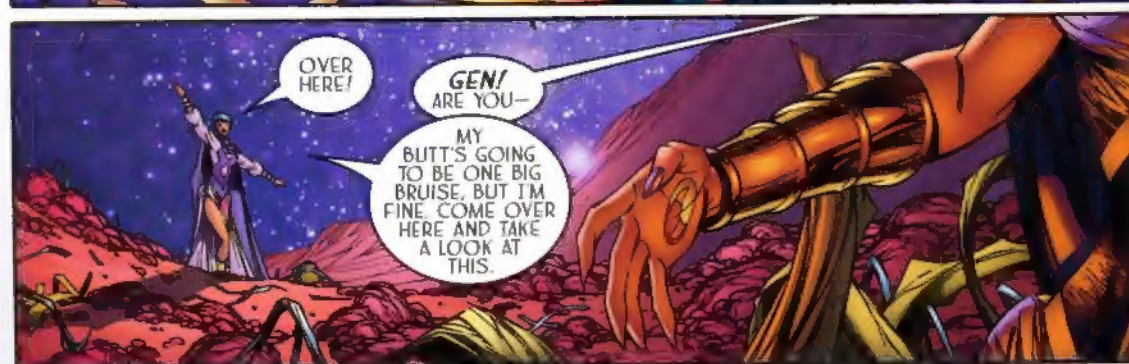
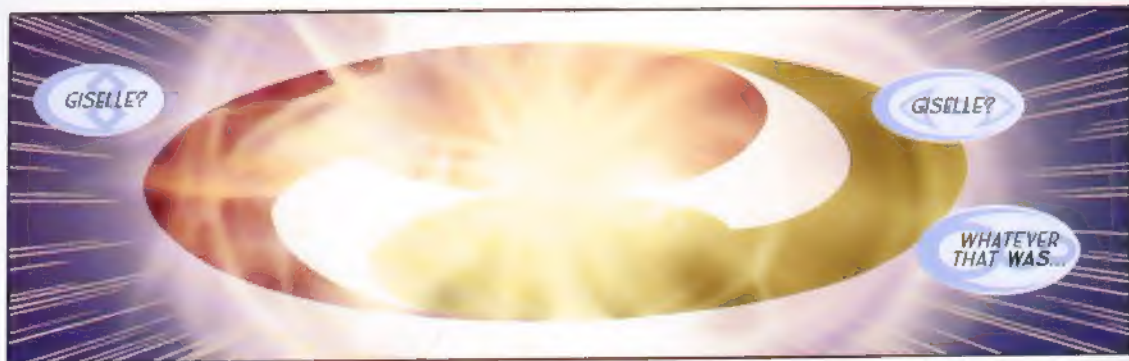
WHAT IF
YOU DIDN'T
CONVERT IT
INTO MAGIC
GISELLE?



WHAT IF
YOU SIMPLY
ALLOWED
YOURSELF TO BE
A RECEPTACLE
FOR THAT
ENERGY

AND
THEN
RELEASED
IT?







SEE?
IT'S NOT
ABSORBING
ANYTHING
AROUND
IT.

I
THINK
IT'S
DEAD.

I HOPE.



SO
WHAT DID
YOU DO,
EXACTLY?

EXACTLY?

I'M NOT
REAL SURE.
BUT I'M SURE
IT *WASN'T*
MAGIC. IT
WAS...

SOMETHING
ELSE. LIKE RAW
ENERGY CHanneled
THROUGH *THIS*
SOMEHOW.



I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
IT CAME FROM,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE
ANYTHING I'VE
EVER FELT
BEFORE.



Wow,
who ordered
WELL DONE?



LOOK
WHO DECIDES
TO SHOW UP
NOW THAT
IT'S SAFE.

YOU AND I
ARE GOING TO HAVE
A LONG TALK ABOUT
THINGS, FURBALL.

What're
you blaming
me for? I'm just
an innocent
bystander.

SURE
YOU ARE.

GISELLE!



IS EVERYBODY OKAY?

WE SURVIVED, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

HANG ON, THIERRY. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.



WELL...

...LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HITTING IT OFF JUST FINE.



Seems nice enough for an ARTIST.

LISTEN, MISTER, MAYBE YOU CAN TALK YOUR WAY AROUND GISELLE, BUT NOT ME. YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS...

...AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH A LOT OF THINGS, FROM NOW ON...

I'M KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU.

Me?



Just a big COINCIDENCE. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

And if in the process Giselle learned a little bit more about her sigil...

...that's not a BAD thing, right?